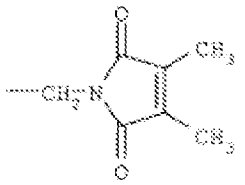
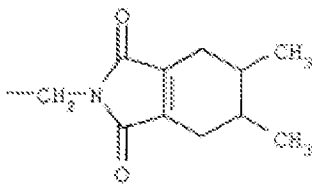
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit of which the phenyl group is substituted by a group A, wherein group A comprises an imide or thioimide group with the exception that A is not



or



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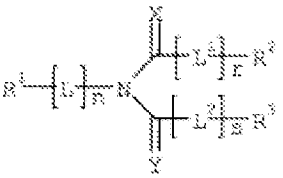
2. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula



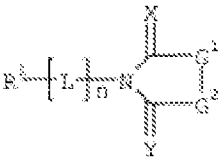
wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,

wherein L, L^1 and L^2 are independently a linking group,

wherein n, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

and wherein one of the groups R^1, R^2 or R^3 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the other two represent a terminal group.

3. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,

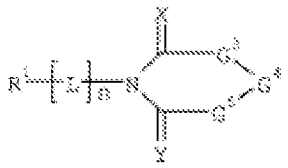
wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^4 and R^5-$[L^3]_t$-C-$[L^4]_u$-R^6, with the limitation that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is O and that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is NR^4,

wherein L, L^3 and L^4 are independently a linking group,

wherein n, t and u are independently 0 or 1,

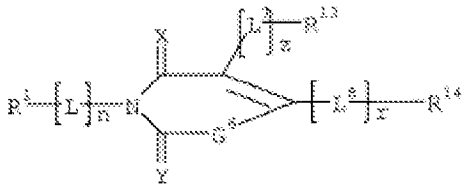
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^4, R^5 and R^6 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

4. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula



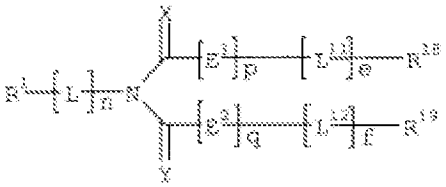
wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 and R^8-$[L^5]_v$-C-$[L^6]_w$-R^9 with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5, is R^8-$[L^5]_v$-C-$[L^6]_w$-R^9 and that two neighboring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5, are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7, by S and NR^7 or by O and O,
wherein L, L^5 and L^6 are independently a linking group,
wherein n, v and w are independently 0 or 1, and
wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^7, R^8 and R^9 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

5. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein G is a group selected from O, S, NR^{10} and R^{11}-$[L^9]_x$-C-$[L^{10}]_y$-R^{12},
wherein L, L^7, L^8, L^9 and L^{10} are independently a linking group,
wherein n, x, y, z and r are independently 0 or 1, and
wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

6. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has the following formula



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,

wherein E^1 and E^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^{15} and R^{16}-$[L^{13}]_g$-C-$[L^{14}]_h$-R^{17},

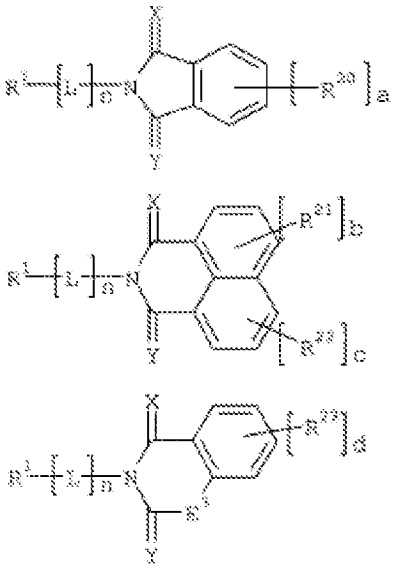
wherein n, e, f, g, h, p and q are independently 0 or 1,

wherein e is 0 when E^1 is represented by O, S or NR^{15}, wherein f is 0 when E^2 is represented by O, S or NR^{15},

wherein L, L^{11}, L^{12}, L^{13} and L^{14} are independently a linking group, and

wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

7. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1 wherein the group A has one of the following formulae



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,

wherein each R^1 and R^{20} to R^{23} is a terminal group independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO_2-NH-R^{24}, -NH-SO_2-R^{27}, -CO-NR^{24}-R^{25},

$-NR^{24}-CO-R^{27}$, $-NR^{24}-CO-NR^{25}-R^{26}$, $-NR^{24}-CS-NR^{25}-R^{26}$, $-NR^{24}-CO-O-R^{25}$, $-O-CO-NR^{24}-R^{25}$, $-O-CO-R^{27}$, $-CO-O-R^{24}$, $-CO-R^{24}$, $-SO_3-R^{24}$, $-O-SO_2-R^{27}$, $-SO_2-R^{24}$, $-SO-R^{27}$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^{24})(-O-R^{25})$, $-O-P(=O)(-O-R^{24})(-O-R^{25})$, $-NR^{24}-R^{25}$, $-O-R^{24}$, $-S-R^{24}$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-N(-CO-R^{24})(-CO-R^{25})$, -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, and $-M-R^{24}$,
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^{24} to R^{26} are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^{27} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl and heteroaralkyl group,
wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein E^3 is selected from O, S, NR^{28} and $R^{29}-[L^{15}]_i-C-[L^{16}]_j-R^{30}$,
wherein L, L^{15} and L^{16} are independently a linking group, wherein n, i and j independently are 0 or 1,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

8. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 1, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

9. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface and an oleophilic coating provided on the hydrophilic surface, said coating comprising an infrared light absorbing agent and a polymer according to claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

11. (Previously Presented) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 10, wherein said dissolution inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of

an organic compound which comprises at least one aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site,

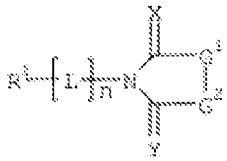
a polymer or surfactant comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

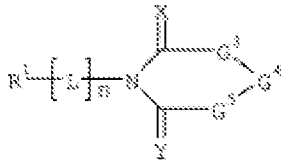
14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 wherein the group A has the following formula



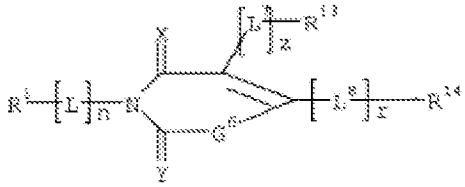
wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^4 and R^5-$[L^3]_t$-C-$[L^4]_u$-R^6, with the limitation that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is O and that G^1 is not O or S when G^2 is NR^4,
wherein L, L^3 and L^4 are independently a linking group,
wherein n, t and u are independently 0 or 1,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^4, R^5 and R^6 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

16. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 wherein the group A has the following formula



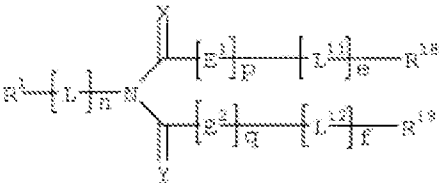
wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein G^3 to G^5 are independently selected from O, S, NR^7 and R^8-$[L^5]_v$-C-$[L^6]_w$-R^9 with the limitation that at least one group, selected from G^3 to G^5, is R^8-$[L^5]_v$-C-$[L^6]_w$-R^9 and that two neighbouring groups, selected from G^3 to G^5, are not represented by O and S, by O and NR^7, by S and NR^7 or by O and O,
wherein L, L^5 and L^6 are independently a linking group, wherein n, v and w are independently 0 or 1,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^7, R^8 and R^9 represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

17. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 wherein the group A has the following formula



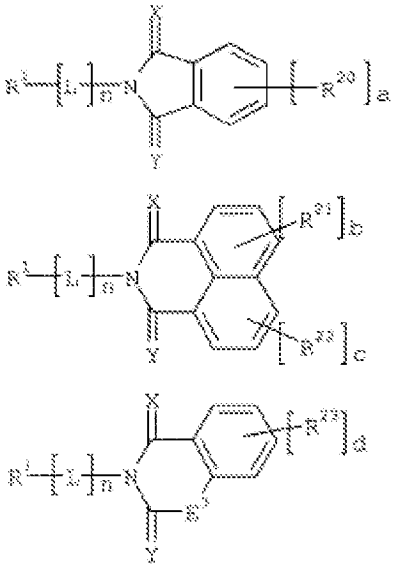
wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein G is a group selected from O, S, NR^{10} and R^{11}-$[L^9]_x$-C-$[L^{10}]_y$-R^{12},
wherein L, L^7, L^8, L^9 and L^{10} are independently a linking group,
wherein n, x, y, z and r are independently 0 or 1,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

18. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 wherein the group A has the following formula



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein E^1 and E^2 are independently selected from O, S, NR^{15} and R^{16}-$[L^{13}]_g$-C-$[L^{14}]_h$-R^{17},
wherein n, e, f, g, h, p and q are independently 0 or 1, wherein e is 0 when E^1 is represented by O, S or NR^{15}, wherein f is 0 when E^2 is represented by O, S or NR^{15},
wherein L, L^{11}, L^{12}, L^{13} and L^{14} are independently a linking group,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

19. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 wherein the group A has one of the following formulae



wherein X and Y are independently selected from O and S,
wherein each R^1 and R^{20} to R^{23} is a terminal group independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, halogen, -SO_2-NH-R^{24}, -NH-SO_2-R^{27}, -CO-NR^{24}-R^{25}, -NR^{24}-CO-R^{27}, -NR^{24}-CO-NR^{25}-R^{26}, -NR^{24}-CS-NR^{25}-R^{26}, -NR^{24}-CO-O-R^{25}, -O-CO-NR^{24}-R^{25}, -O-CO-R^{27}, -CO-O-R^{24}, -CO-R^{24}, -SO_3-R^{24}, -O-SO_2-R^{27}, -SO_2-R^{24}, -SO-R^{27}, -P(=O)(-O-R^{24})(-O-R^{25}), -O-P(=O)(-O-R^{24})(-O-R^{25}), -NR^{24}-R^{25}, -O-R^{24}, -S-R^{24}, -CN, -NO_2, -N(-CO-R^{24})(-CO-R^{25}), -N-phthalimidyl, -M-N-phthalimidyl, and -M-R^{24},
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein R^{24} to R^{26} are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^{27} is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl and heteroaralkyl group,
wherein a and d are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein b and c are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein E^3 is selected from O, S, NR^{28} or R^{29}–$[L^{15}]_i$-C-$[L^{16}]_j$–R^{30}, wherein L, L^{15} and L^{16} are independently a linking group,
wherein n, i and j independently are 0 or 1,
and wherein one of the groups selected from R^1, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} represents the phenolic monomeric unit and the remaining groups represent a terminal group.

20. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 15, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

21. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 16, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

22. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 17, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

23. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 18, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

24. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 19, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

25. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 15, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

26. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 16, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

27. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 17, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

28. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 18, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

29. (Previously Presented) The heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 19, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

30. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 2, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

31. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 3, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

32. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 4, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

33. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 5, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

34. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 6, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

35. (Previously Presented) The polymer according to claim 7, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for increasing the chemical resistance of a coating of a positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor against printing liquids and press chemicals, the method comprising providing a coating comprising:

a polymer according to claim 1,
an infrared absorbing agent, and
a dissolution inhibitor.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for increasing the chemical resistance of a coating of a negative working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor against printing liquids and press chemicals, the method comprising providing a coating comprising:

a polymer according to claim 1,
a latent Brönsted acid, and
an acid-crosslinkable compound.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.